CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY:

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9 April 2019

President **Graham Harker** opened the meeting at 19.30 hours and welcomed the 19 members present. He introduced **Jim Etherington** and **Grace Davies** from the Mid Sussex Philatelic Society and invited them to give their displays**.**

Jim Etherington presented his wide-ranging display of **"1940 – A Desperate Year"** starting with the story of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and the associated military cancels such as the Base Army Post Office. Field Post Offices and Krag Machine cancels. These were shown on field letters, letters provided by the French, comfort fund parcels and the associated thank you cards. There were also examples of censorship including where the censor numbers had been blacked out and also where BFPO numbers had been blacked out.

Allied mail was shown coming from the Indian and Cypriot contingents and the Germans were not forgotten as there was mail back to Germany, some of it written on French military postal stationery. The whole spectrum of the conflict was covered with well-researched mail to and from Prisoners of War and also to and from soldiers, many who did not survive.

After the interval **Grace Davies** gave her **Peace** presentation which started with the end of the Boer War in 1902. The end of World War 1 was celebrated with stamps from a number of different sources and countries including Pigeon Post proclaiming Peace, Bahamas Peace Celebration stamps and Peace issues from Switzerland and Japan. World War 2 (WW2) followed with New Zealand Buy Peace Bonds stamps, a letter dated 2 September 1945, the day that Japan surrendered, and a US Admiral Nimitz cachet.

There followed a section on Peace Conferences going back to the Peace of Westphalia and including the 1925 Locarno Peace Conference. After WW2 there were proofs from the Paris Peace Conference and souvenirs of the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty with Japan. The presentation concluded with the 1943 League of Nations and the establishment of the United Nations on 25 April 1951 illustrated with stamps, letters and postcards.

President **Graham Harker** gave the vote of thanks, commenting that two weighty subjects covering both War and Peace had been presented. The amount of research including the variety of material was superb as was the commentaries. The audience showed their approval in the usual way and the meeting closed at 21.30 hours.

16.04.19
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Brian Asquith & Graham Harker